

Chap LIII.

Timur Marches to Azerbaijan, or the country of the ancient Medas.

This monarch having advice, that the Sultan Ahmed Jalair, who had raised troops, was departed from Bagdad to Tauris, again lest his camp with some troops under the conduct of Cheik Ali Bahader, and the same day marches with expedition at the head of his army to that city.

But Sultan Ahmed hearing of his march, was not willing to wait his coming, but fled, and made haste to Bagdad.

Timur sent Seifeddin, with the other Emirs, and troops to pursue Ahmed. When they had overtaken the army, he was so terrified, that abandoning his led-horses, baggage, and all his furniture, he fled; as soon as our soldiers had sufficiently pillaged his baggage, they made the great cry Souroun, and returned.

In the mean while Elias Coja, son of Cheik Ali Bahader, having marched by Nakhchivan with a small number of horse,; found Ahmed in the salt-pits of Nemeczar, where this Sultan, guarded by several troops, made a brave resistance, by which many were wounded on both sides. Elias Coja himself received a wound, which disabled him; and this accident saved Ahmed from the danger his life was in. This captain's wound, joined with his bad constitution, caused in him a violent distemper, which had killed him, if the good fortune which always attends Timur's officers, had not favored his recovery; and at length he was healed, except that he remained lame, the distemper being got into his foot.

On this occasion there were many massacres and pillagings at Nakchivan. Comari Einac having received some displeasure from the government, set fire to the great dome of the palace of Ziaelmulc, to revenge himself; and it there perished, in a miserable manner, fifteen persons, who were shocked by the smoke of the straw which was brought thither.

Timur having entirely brought into subjection of the kingdom of Azerbaijan, went to encamp in the neighborhood of Chenob Gazane, where Seid Razi Coja, Hadgi Mechemed, Bendghir Cattat, Cadi Cayfeddin, Cadi Abdellatif, and other great lords and Sheriffs of this country, come to make their submissions to him; and afterwards a some of many was imposed on the inhabitants of Tauris, as usual, for having saved their lives; which the receivers collected.

The court and army staid at Tauris, and the neighboring places during the summer. Timur commanded Sarek Adel to be put to death, whom they cast down from a wall, after having pillaged his house; and then the most skillful masters in every art and science were sent to Samarcand.

In the mean time Mahmoud Calcali seized in the province of Calcal of the Emir Veli, who, flying to save his life, wandered from country to country. He was delivered to Comari Elinac, who put him to death, in conformity to the laws of Genghiz Can; and his head was laid at the foot of the throne.

In autumn, the government of Tauris was given to Mehmed Sultan Chah, and the imperial standard was carried to Nakchivan. The army then marched to Merend, and to the defile of mountains named Dez; then it crossed the Rive Ourous(Araxes) and encamped on its banks. There is not more magnificent bridge in the world than this; it is in the territory of Nakchivan near the town of Youlaha, where the Ourous (Araxes) run

at the foot of a mountain. The bridge is built of stone, and is of vast strength : it is flat of top ; the stones are so well joined, and all the building is so just and perfect, that the most skillful architect can't view it without admiration. Among the arches of this bridge there are two so high and broad, that the breadth of one is more than sixty Chez(Cubit), and of the other more than fifty five; they having been measured at low water : and because when the waters are highest the stream of this river runs through the great arch, which is continuous to the mountain, the lower part being empty, they have there made a Caravansera. At the two ends of the bridge there are gates made out of the same rock, of unparalleled beauty.

The army having decamped from this post, arrived at the citadel of Corni, which there immediately attacked, and took by assault. They seized on Cheik Hassan the governor, and brought him with a chain about his neck, to the emperor.

They afterwards came to the town of Surmalu, situate on the bank of the Ouroux (Araxes) : and having invested it on all sides, they took it by storm sword in hand. They immediately razed it, and seized on Toutan Turcoman, the leader of the people, whom they bound with cords, and laid before the throne.

From Surmalu the army came to Cars, a town strongly built with stone, and which in that country was thought impregnable. A certain Turcoman, named Pirouz Bact, was governor of this country : The strength of the place, and the difficulty of coming at it, because of its situation, made him proud; insomuch that after having well-fortified the citadel and walls of the town, he imagined himself able to resist the army of the emperor, who ordered all the machine to be got ready, and that as soon as Gourge should be beat in all the quarters, and the great cry Souroin made, the place should be invested on every side.

The enemy wanted not courage and resolution to defend himself ; thus he was briskly assaulted, yet he have marks of his intrepidity and valor; but at length perceiving that victory declared her self by degrees for the imperial army, Pirouz Bact submitted with a thousand testimonies of his obedience, thus the wrath of the victorious troops could not be appeased but by the pillage of the town, which was a length razed to the very foundations.

[I,263-267](#)

Chap LIII.

Timur enters to Georgia at the head of his army. The description of the Persian way of hunting; as also of the Gerke and Nerke.

God had recommended to Mahomet to excite the Mussulmans to make war on the enemies of their religion, because it is the most excellent of all actions; and the Alcoran praises above all others, those who risk their fortunes above all others, those who risk their fortunes and lives in such a war.

This was Timur's only aim, from the beginning of his rise to his death; but he particularly executed it at this time by beginning a war which he had a long while projected.

His zeal exciting him to march to Teflis, when he was decamped from before Cars, he mounted his horse in a rising ground named Ac Bogra at a time, when the violent of the cold was extraordinary, and the air was full of ice and frost.

He continued his march by Kitou, and at length arrived at Teflis. The strength of the walls of this town had rendered the Georgians proud and insolent, in imitation of the other infidels; insomuch that confiding in the citadel, which that had very well fortified, they prepared for a vigorous defense.

The emperor gave orders for the siege. The Emirs and other officers prepared with all expeditions the arms and machines necessary for assaulting the place. After having put in order the wings, the body, and other parts of the army, they invested the town; and at the same time cried out, Allahou Ecber, God is great, which is the cry called Souroum, already spoken of. Then the emperor took his sword in his hand, and our soldiers covered with their great bucklers made a general assault on the town. All the brave men of the army gave marks of an extraordinary valor; and applied themselves so briskly to their duty, that through the assistance of heaven this royal town was conquered, and prince Malek Ipocrates (Bagrat) taken prisoner, and brought to the emperor : he was bound in chains, and carefully secured.

After this conquest, the emperor departed from Teflis, and resolved to follow the diversion of hunting : so the Emirs received his orders, and the troops formed the Nerke, that is, being ranged in a circle to hinder the passage of the beasts, they surrounded a great space of ground full of plains and hills; and sometime after was the Gerke, that is, the men who formed the circle, constantly approaching one another the stags, deers, lions and other wild beasts of all forts, were shut up and brought into a narrow compass.

When the emperor, the princes his sons, and other princes of the royal blood, were entered into the circle according to the customary rules of the chase, and had taken their diversion in killing many wild beasts, they soldiers who entered in their turn into the inclosure, took all they could with their hands, of which they killed the best, and let go the others : in short, there was more game killed than the troops could carry away, and they were obliged to abandon a great part of the mercy of the birds of prey and other savage beasts.

I, 267-269

Chap LV.

Timur returns to Carabagh.

Timur departed from this country with such good fortune, that though the divine assistance, his troops in the road, and the neighboring places, made themselves masters of many towns and castles, which were in the hands of the infidels : they released the country from their tyranny; and having pillaged all the places which these men had with so much difficulty conquered, they enriched themselves with a vast booty.

The victorious army encamped at Cheki, from whence the emperor sent several bodies of troops against the infidels. The Emir Gehan Chah had orders to fall upon the Lekezians, who were entirely pillaged and the major part slain. The Emir Mehemed Dervich Berlas entered with a body of troops into the mountains of Cheki, where he took many fugitive rebels, whom he put in irons, making them slaves; and the soldiers seized on everything they had.

Argoun Chah, and Ramadan Coja, with other troops marched with expedition to the province of Tencgout, where they performed several warlike exploits; they killed a great many men, plundered all the places, and carried away so many captives, that all the country was surprised.

The Emir Mehemed Bei, and the Emir Moussa, also brought their troops into the country of Acdgeb, and made themselves masters of it : and Timur at the head of a victorious army caused the standard of the holy war which he undertook, to be fixed at the foot of mount Alburz, where he made known the purity of his intentions, and the strength of his faith, by hymns and psalms, which he sung to the praise of God, in token of the triumphs of the Mussulman religion, and the destruction of the infidels.

The Emirs at length returned, after they had fully executed their commission, by the conquest the castles and towns of the infidels, the greatest part of which were razed, for the chastisement of their disorders, and by the booty which they brought away. These generals joined the imperial camp in a place named Cabale, or Cambale. They also made themselves masters of the red castle, and razed it : from thence they came to Carabagh Surcab(Calafurk), from whence thy army marched to encamp on the banks of the river Cor (Cyrus), over which they built a bridge, which was carried on by the means of floats of reeds and little sticks, which the emperor had ordered to be made. He crossed his bridge at the head of the army, and marched to Berda, the inhabitants of which submitted without any defense.

Timur being at Carabagh, ordered Ipocrates (Bagrat), prince of Teflis, to be brought before him, whom he had before imprisoned and put in in irons. He had a conference with this prince concerning the mahometan religion, invented him to be a mussulman, and gave him a thousand good reasons to persuade him to it; and he communicated to him so much light in relation to the law of Mahomet, that though special grace, that of the vocation entered into his mind, which had been hitherto full of darkness. In short, Ipocrates(Bagrat) quitted his error, and turned Mussulman. He declared there was no other god than God; and that Mahomet was not simply a man as others, but that he was the envoy of God, and the seal of the prophets : and in fine, having confessed the divine unity, he was ranked among the true Mahometans.

This man had a coat of mail, which was reported to have been that which the prophet David had forged in a smith's shop, and which he had made proof of by several times soaking and dying it. He presented this piece to Timur, with other curiosities remarkable for their antiquity. This monarch received them, and not only permitted him to be of the number of his favorites, but though the zeal which he had of winning over to him the hearths of others, he permitted him to return home, after having honored him with several presents.. All this good treatment from Timur, was the cause that most part of the people of this kingdom embraced the mahometan religion.

At this time the Emir Cheik Ibrahim, prince of Chirvan, who by his power, reputation, honesty, and noble descent, was distinguished among the kings at that time, came to court ; and as he was a man of good sense, he submitted entirely to the emperor, and by this means he had the honor to kiss the carpet of the throne. He offered handsome presents ; and among other things several parcels of rarities, each of which according to custom, was composed of nine pieces.

Among the other gallant actions of this prince to render himself agreeable to Timur, the following was most pleasing to this monarch : After having brought out all the parcels of rarities, which should have been nine pieces of each fort, he presented him with eight captives which he had brought ; and as someone said that the ninth piece was wanting, he presented himself to make up the number : which so highly pleased Timur, that he not only loaded him the kingdom of Chirvan with its dependences, and the title of Chirvan, under which title he became famous in the world.

Timur also received tokens of submission from the sovereigns of Ghilan, who for several ages, confiding in the strength of their walls, and the difficulty of access to their mountains and woods, as also in the number of their marshes and sloughs, and not obeyed any king. The princes who then reigned sent their children and officers with presents to the foot of the throne, who promised for their masters not only a ready obedience, but also the payment of a tribute.

Then the Cheik Ali Bahader, who had the care of the emperor's baggage, arrived at Carabagh by the way of Ardevil; and the emperor passed the winter on the banks of the river Ourous (Araxes). [I,269-273](#)

Chap XLVI.

Timur sends an army into Georgia.

One of the principal advices of Mahomet to his followers, is, that they should make war on those profess a different religion from themselves, and sacrifice their own lives for the increase of the faith. This caused Timur, who was a strict mussulman, to send Barhan Aglen, Hadgi Seifeddin Gehancha, and Osman Behader, into Georgia, against Acsica prince of that country, while he himself should march thither by the forests of Alatac with a very numerous army. The Emirs entered Georgia, divided themselves into several bodies, and wasted the country of those infidels. Timur before his decampment ordered a hunting; in the evening all this fine country was surrounded, and next morning the circle growing less and less, the meadow was covered with game. Timur began the slaughter, and the captains followed in their turn; so that there was not one officer who had not for his share at least ten beasts.

After this hunting Timur continued his road to Georgia in long marches, seldom dismounting to repose himself; while his troops plundered all who were of a different religion, and would not submit to the emperor. As Timur's sole intention in this was God's glory, he had every day some considerable blessings showered on him from heaven. Among other delights, when he arrived at Cars, he had the pleasure of encamping in a very agreeable plain, where the green meadows, the infinite number of springs and rivulets of water clear as chrystal, the shady groves, delicious fruit-trees, the variety of balsams and flowers, and the refreshing zephyrs were so charming, that they seemed to meet together in this place only to receive the greatest emperor of the universe. At this happy place was born to Charoc, a prince, at whose birth all the court was transported with joy, and the whole army made public rejoicings. [I,479-480](#)

Chap XLVIII.

Solemn rejoicings for the birth of Ibrahim Sultan, son of Charoc.

Next day at sun-rising Timur decamped from the meadow of Cars for the Plain of Minecgeheul, where he had information that the Emirs, who had been sent into Georgia, after having gained several battles, conquered great part of the country, and taken many strong places from the Christians, where upon their return. Shortly after these Emirs had the honor to salute Timur; and having presented to him the spoils they

had taken in Gurgistan (Georgia), they congratulated him on the birth of the prince his grandson. After this, orders being given for preparations to made for the banquet, they provided tents and canopies, which they adorned with the most magnificent furniture of all Asia...

I,482

Chap XLVIII.

Timur goes in person to the Georgian war.

Timur's zeal for religion made him undertake the war himself in Georgia : wherefore he decamped, and entered the mountains of those Christians, cutting in pieces all who resisted, and pillaging their country. Then he marches into the lands of certain Georgians, named Cara Carcanic, that is, the black buckler, who had fortified themselves in castles situate on very steep mountains : by the assistance of heaven he vanquished these enemies, entered their habitations, and plundered their goods, after having put them all to the sword. He encamped some time in their plains to repose his army, and from thence marched before Teflis; and continuing his road came to the plain of Cheki, where he encamped several days. From this place the Emirs Hadgi Seifeddin and Gehancha Bahader were sent to pillage the lands of a Georgian prince named Bertaz : they accordingly entered this prince's country, made a terrible havoc, and took the inhabitants prisoners, whom they brought to the camp. Timur also sent the Chaik Nouraddin, son of Sarbouga, with a considerable body of the army, into other mountains called the Conhestan of Georgia; he had no sooner set footing in those parts, than Sedi Ali of Cheki, prince of the house of Erlat, who was governor there, was afraid and fled, abandoning his effects to Nouredin, who having destroyed his houses, sacked his country, and pillaged his goods, returned to the imperial camp. At this time advice was brought by the way of Chirvan, that the troops of Tocatnich Can, having for their generals Ali Aglen, Elias Aglen, Aisa Bei, Yagli Bei, and other great Emirs of Capchac, had passed by Derbend, and ravaged some countries dependent on Chirvan. Timur having learnt this news by the Uzbeks, said, it was better that the game should run into the nets, than that the hunters should go in search of it; and there was nothing to fear from the armies of Capchac. Whereupon he immediately departed from Cheki, to meet these rash inhabitants of Capchac, with all his emirs at the head of their regiments. The enemy, on advice of his march, shamefully fled. Timur, who was then on the banks of Abcor (Cyrus), ordered the quarter-masters to choose a place for passing the winter-season. They pitched on the plain of Mahmoudabad, to which Timur marched, and encamped on the plain of Calian Corbed, near the town Facrabad. Timur, who extremely loved the princes his children, sent to Sultania for them, the empresses, and the baggage to come to the imperial camp; which they accordingly did, in their passage crossing the Cyrus. Mirza Mirancha quitted the siege of Alengic, to come to court; and being at Babi, he was informed that he had a son born to him, whom the emperor named Aigel. Mirza Pir Mechmet, leaving the Emirs Sevindgic, Hassan Jagadoul, and Ali Bei son of Aisa, at Shiraz, departed thence, and joined the imperial camp in the winter quarters, where they passed the season agreeably in places and feasts, every day furnishing new diversions.

I,485-487

Chap LVI.

Timur makes war in Circassia.

Timur departed from Azac for Couban, and as the Circassians had destroyed their meadows and pasture-grounds between those two towns, a great number of the horses of the army perished. They suffered this want of forage between seven and eight days : but at length, having passed many waters and marshes, they

arrived at Couban, where they staid some time. Timur sent the Mirza Mechmet Sultan and Miran Chah , the Emir Gehan Chah and other Emirs to make inroads in Circassia, with orders to return as soon as they had made themselves masters of that kingdom. These princes marched thither with expedition, pillaged all the goods of Circassians, brought away an infinite quantity of spoils, and happily returned to Timur's camp, to whom they have an account of their expedition. 1,505

Chap LVII.

Timur marches to Alburz Couh, or mount Caucasus.

Timur being satisfied with the conquests of Muscovy and Circassia, returned with his whole army towards Mount Alburz. Then some sorry fellows, who are never waiting in the courts of princes, accused the Emir Osman Abbas before Timur, of crimes which had no foundation of truth. These slanders were believed by the emperor, who had before suspected the worth and credit of Osman. He ordered that this illustrious Emir should be put to death, who on so many occasions had given indisputable marks of his courage and conduct : but sate is inevitable.

Timur having a design to destroy the infidels, marched towards Bouraberdi, to attack Buraken, prince of the nation of As : and as there were forests on this road, he ordered them to be cut down, in order to make a free passage. There he left the Emir Hargi Seifedin with baggage, and marched himself to mount Alburz, where he several times attacked the Georgians, took their castles, and made himself master of their fortified defiles, which they imagined inaccessible; he put a great number of these Georgians to the sword, after having ruined their fortresses, and enriched his soldiers with their spoils.

Timur came down from the mountain, very much pleased with the advantages he had gained. He returned to his camp, and ordered a feast in joy of his victories; whereupon the pavilion of ceremony was erected, the cords of which were of silk, the pillars of gold, and the pins of silver; the throne, on which he sat with his crown on his head, was of gold enriched with precious stones. The princes and great lords were ranged before him ready to receive his orders. The inside of the tent was sprinkled with an odoriferous rosewater; and then the tables were placed, and the meats served up in dishes of gold. After they had done eating, the bottles were unstopped, and the cups opened; and everyone drank wine of Georgia while they were entertained both with vocal and instrumental music. A whole week passed in these pleasures, and everyone reposed himself from fatigues of the campaign. At length Timur made choice of the moment to decamp, which the astrologers found to be most fortunate; which was done at the found of kettledrums and trumpets. 1,506-507

Chap LVII.

Timur attacks the fortresses of Coula, Taous, and others.

Timur again left the body of the army, to march to the fortresses of Coula and Taous in Georgia, which are inhabited the same people as those in mount Alburz, and who can retreat into strong places situate on sleep mountains, the passages to which are almost inaccessible. They are so very sleep that one is dazzled in looking upon them, and especially that of Taous, which is on the ridge of a high mountain, and is so very high, that the most skillful archer can't hit it with his arrow; which was the reason that no one had ever before attempted the taking of it. Timur ordered the Toman of the Mecrits who were in his army, to come

before him : these men are so dexterous in climbing up mountains, that they will go wherever the antelopes or roe-bucks can. He ordered them to look out for the most difficult ways to ascend the place. They went all round the mountain; but were not able to find out a single passage to the castle. This very much disquieted Timur ; and at length resolved to make a great many high ladders, which might be joined to one another : in effect they placed them against the first ridge of the mountain, and some brave men ascended. A troop of the forlorn-hope, who were resolved to sacrifice their lives for the success of the action, being upon the top of this ridge, bound themselves with cords; and fastened the ends of the cords to the ridge of the mountain, they came down with the place, where the besieged overwhelmed them with stones, Several on this occasion had the honor of martyrdom : but the others, encouraged as much by a motive of religion as by the glory of dying in the service of the great Timur, took the place of the slain, and advanced with an extraordinary resolution. And as the whole army were continually mounting the ladders, and descending before the place, the besieged lost courage, and could not hinder our men from getting to the castle, and making themselves masters of it. They put to the sword all the men of the nation of Ircaouon (Taochians) , who had retired thither. The governors of Coula and Taous were also taken and put to death.

From thence the army marched towards the fortress of Poulad, whither Outarcou, one of the great Emirs of Capchac, was retired. Timur in his way staid at a place named Balacan, where there was so great quantity of honey, that all the soldiers were provided with some. The emperor being willing to make the governor of this place, whose name was also Paulad, own his sault, wrote a letter to him, in which he declared, that if he did not sent Outarcou to him, who had fled for refuge into his place, he would make him repent of it. Poulad considering in the strength of his citadel, slighted the letter, and sent Timur word, that he was in a good fortress, and ready to defend himself if attacked; that the lord Outarcou having fled for refuge to him, he would not deliver him up, but as long as he had one drop of blood left, he would defend him to the utmost of his power. Timur having received this answer, was more incensed, and resolved to take the castle at any rate. There was in the way to it a very thick wood, the trees of which grew so very close together, that the wind could scarce find a passage though it : whereupon he ordered the soldiers to cut down this forest, and make a way though it ; which they accordingly did for the space of three leagues. Then the standards being displayed, they began their march, and arrived at the place. The fortress is situate in a very sleep defile of mountains; and the inhabitants had stopped up the way which leads to it, and placed a good guard there, having resolved to sacrifice their lives to their master's service, at the incitation of the assassins we have already mentioned. They rashly attacked our soldiers first; but were soon defeated : our men entered the place, and having made themselves masters of it, put to the sword all who were capable of bearing arms. Outarcou fled, and escaped by the defiles of mount Alburz. Our soldiers pillaged the goods, and set fire to the houses of these miserable people, making the inhabitants slaves, and carrying away much booty.

Advice being brought that three companies of Georgians, who had fled, were posted on the top of mountain, Timur marched immediately against them, attacked them, and after their defeat, caused them all to be cast into the fire. Then the Mirza Miran Chah, who commanded the troops of the right wing, acquainted the emperor that he had pursued Outarcou, who was got the very middle of mount Alburz, where he defended himself in a place named Abasa. Timur hereupon immediately departed, entered the mount Alburz, and being encamped at Abasa, they at length seized on Outarcou, whom they brought before the emperor, who ordered him to be bound, and loaded with chains. The soldiers pillaged all the habitations of the great and famous mountain, of which they entirely made themselves masters. 1507-510

Chap LIX.

Timur marches to Semsem.

Timur marched against the country of Semsem, where he no sooner appeared than he became master of all this tract of ground. Mehmet son of Gaiour Can, to whom it belonged, come to offer it at his feet, and beg the honor for himself and all his subjects to be of the number of his servants : and he was enrolled among the officers of Timur's court. Several of the inhabitants of these places had fled into the mountain, and maintained their ground in steep places, where the food soldiers were scarce able to stand upon their legs. Timur went himself in search of them, and mounted these difficult places; where his soldiers met with some resistance from the enemies, who were at length overcome and brought to Timur, who ordered them to be bound, and precipitated from the top of the mountain. There were several places in Georgia, out of which neither horse nor foot could get, without gently sliding down steep hills. Timur's zeal for the honor of religion, and desire to obtain the rewards promised to those who make war for the faith, excited him to hazard his person in all these difficulties, and expose himself to the greatest fatigues. But at length he cleared country of the infidels who inhabited it, setting fire to their houses, and destroying their statues and churches. From thence he marched to mount Aouhar, which he gave in pillage to his soldiers; and afterwards to Bichkunt, where he gave great largesses to the inhabitants, because they had long since offered him their services : assigned them lordships, with assurances that they need not fear any harm; for he prohibited his soldiers from wronging them in the least manner, that everyone might see, that what he did was either a recompense for their merits, or a punishment for their crimes. He then marched on farther, and ravaged the countries of the Cossacks of Jutour, putting to the sword all these robbers : our soldiers brought from thence great quantities of goods, and especially of honey, with which this country abounds. From thence they went to Bogaz Com, where the inhabitants of Mamcatou and Cazicomouc came to make their submissions : he gave them a handsome reception and largesses, and promised them his protection against the insults of his soldiers. Then there remained unconquered in Georgia only the isles, the inhabitants of which confiding in the water which surrounded them, had fortified themselves, and neglected to come and pay their devoirs to Timur : they were called Balectchian, this is to say, the fishermen. Timur sent troops to reduce them : and as it was winter, and the waters were froze above two cubits in thickness, the soldiers passed over, and sell upon the houses of these islanders, pillaged their effects, and carried them away captive to the imperial camp.

Chap LXI.

Timur returns to Capchac.

As all the countries of Capchac, Kaser, and the west and north of the Caspian sea, were reduced under Timur's domination, and his troops had pillaged and sacked the towns and provinces of all these climates, as Oukec, Madgiar, little Russia, Circassia, Backgorod, Mekes or Moscow, Azac, Couban, and Alan; and as all the princes of these countries had given assurances of their obedience, and the enemy who had escaped with their lives were dispersed like vagabonds, without either fire or houses : at the beginning of the spring of the year 798 (An. Dom. 1396) of the Hegira, which answers of the year of the Mouse, Timur decamped from his winter quarters in the defile of Bougaz Com, marched into Derbend and Azerbaijan; and at the sound of drums, and the acclamations of the soldiers, with the ensigns displayed, he crossed the river of Turk upon

the ice. As soon as we was come to Terki, he left the baggage, ranged his army in order of battle, and marched towards Uchendge, to attack the Christians there : he besieged the town, and sent soldiers into all the province to pillage it, and bring away what booty they could. Then Choukel came from Cazi Comouc and Aouscher, with three thousand men, to secure Uchindge, tho Choukel before had waged war with them. The scouts of the right were the first who perceived their approach, and informed the emperor of it, who immediately went to meet them at the head of five hundred chosen horse, and found them encamped behind a hill, having let loose their horses to feed. Timur got upon the hill, that he might take all necessary precautions as to what he observed : and when he was come down, he immediately gave a sign to his soldiers to fall upon the enemy, who suspected nothing; which they did with so much fury, that they put almost all to the sword. Mobacher Behader overtook Choukel, who to save his life, got off his horse, and retreated to a mountain. Mobacher let fly an arrow at him, which struck him down, and he was wounded so desperately that he expired forthwith ; Mobacher cut off his head, and brought it to Timur, with some prisoners, whom Timur thus reproached :

“ It is possible that you who have had the honor of entering into the Mahometan religion, and have constantly made war on the Christians, should now come to their succor, and abandon your law ? “

They confessed their fault, and begged for pardon and quarter, which Timur granted, gave them a handsome treatment, and presented to them vests and other things : he even permitted them to return home, that the Kelanters and other grandees of their nation might learn from them the affection he had for those who were strict adherers to the Mahometan religion, and might imitate them in coming before him to testify the repentance for their fault ; he likewise promised they should partake of his liberalities, and that would confirm them in their principalities.

Timur was no sooner returned to his camp, than his soldiers made themselves masters of Uchendge : they put to the sword all the soldiers in the garrison, made piles of their bodies, and at length ravaged all the country. Then the Kelanters of Cazi Comouc and Auscher, with the Cadis and other great men of the country, came to cast themselves at Timur's feet, confessing their fault, begging forgiveness, and offering their service and obedience. The emperor not only pardoned them, but even honored them with rich presents, exhorting them to make war on the Christians, according to their ancient custom, and so procure all the advantages which can be expected to the mussulman religion : he likewise confirmed them in their sovereignties by letters-parent, and then dismissed them.

From thence he went to attack the town of Norghes, which he took at the first onset, put the inhabitants to the sword, and ordered the place to be pillaged and razed. Several of the inhabitants were got upon the top of the mountains, and others were retired into the clefts and caverns of the rocks. Timur ordered they should be pursued, and being overtaken, they were slain with lances and arrows; and our soldiers carried away their effects. They afterwards took by assault the towns of Mica, Balou and Dercalou, at the foot of mount Alburz, which they razed; and after having pillaged and seized on everything they found in them, they returned laden with spoils to the camp. After all the places and lordships, situate on the north of mount Alburz, were reduced to Timur's obedience, he decamped, and marched with all his army, enriched with the spoils of Georgia and the northern countries. Every soldier brought away five or six of the most beautiful young women of the country; and their wagons were filled with riches. The inhabitants of Zeregheran, the most skillful workmen in coats of mail, came to meet the emperor, and offer him their services, and presented

him with several of the master-pieces of their art ; his highness received them with all manner of civility, and was liberal to them. Those of the mountain Caitagh also submitted, and came to beg quarter; which Timur granted, and dismissed them. Then he marched to Derbend Bacou, that is, the Caspian gates, and caused the walls of the fortress to be built in a short time.

The news of the emperor's return being spread everywhere, all the nations came to meet him; and he was received in triumph, with ensigns displayed. The cities sent to congratulate him upon his conquests with great pomp and ceremony, and made solemn plays and feasts to return thanks to God. The Cheik Ibrahim, prince of Chirvan, who had followed the court in this expedition, begged leave to set out before the rest. He entered into Chaberan, and used all his care to prepare a great banquet, to receive the emperor in a magnificent manner : in effect, his regale was splendid, and worthy of the court, and he acquitted himself like a good servant, and a complete (?) courtier. From thence Timur marched to Chamaki, and encamped on the bank of the river of Cyrus. The same Cheik Ibrahim, who was also prince of this town, a second time entertained the emperor and the court, making presents likewise to Timur, and assuring him of a perfect obedience to his orders. This monarch gave him a vest, and a belt of gold enriched with precious stones : he also distributed vests among the relations of this Cheik, and the principal officers of his household ; he confirmed him in the principality of Chirvan and Shamaki, recommended to him the care of the town of Derbend, as a place of importance, and to inform himself of whatever should happen near the frontiers of his principality. Timur spent some days in this fine country in plays and pleasures, crossed the river of Cyrus, and went to encamp at Actem. [I,515-519](#)

Chap LXII.

Timur gives the government of Azerbaijan to the Mirza Miran Chah, who besieges Alengic.

Timur having given to the Mirza Miran Chah the government of Azerbaijan, and all the country situate between Derbend and Bacou, and from Hamadan to the country of the Ottomans; orders were sent by an express to all the officers of this Mirza, who had remained in Corassana, to march to Azerbaijan with the Emirs and troops of his household. The emperor ordered him to govern this kingdom by himself, and to besiege Alengic. The Mirza, when he came to take his leave of the emperor, was tenderly embraced by him, who ordered the Mirza Roustem and Gehan Chah Bahader to accompany him with some good troops, and conduct him as far as Alengic. The Emirs and troops, who were ordered from Corassana, being arrived, he fixed the countries of Carabagh and Nacchivan, as far as Avenic, for the lords and habitations of the troops of his right wing; and the lords of his left wing were quartered in the countries from Saouc Boulac and Derguzin, as far as Hamadan. [I,515-519](#)

II Volume

BOOK V

Two wars of Timur in Georgia.

Chap I.

The causes which obliged Timur to make war in the country of Iran, that is, in the western parts of Asia, from the river Gihon to the Mediterranean Sea.

In the autumn of the year of Higira 801(An. Dom. 1399), which answers to that of the Mouse, the Mirza Miran Chah, conducted by his evil destiny, went to take the diversion of hunting in the neighborhood of Tauris, where the tomb of Pir Omar Naq Chirban is to be seen.

He met a robe-buck, which he was desirous to take with his hands : but as he was stooping down to that purpose, he sell off his horse, thus he was one of the best horsemen of Asia; and the violence of his fall cast him into s swoon, in which he lay a long time. All the lords of his court were extremely concerned at it, and got round him to comfort him. He continued in sits for three days being an ignorant fellow, or rather a knave, which has since been most suspected, failed in the application of remedies; by which means this prince was seized with a giddiness in his brain, which impaired his senses. Thus this great man, who till that time had possessed the throne of Hulacou, and of the kingdom of Azerbiajana, with so much applause and glory, by the administration of justice and by his liberality, was deprived of his understanding. Upon a brave suspicion he slew a man; and prodigally squandered away the treasures of the state, destroyed the most noted buildings, and did many things contrary to the good sense and dignity of a prince.

One of his actions, which plainly discovered the alteration of his judgment, was, that at the beginning of summer, he departed at the head of all his troops to besiege the city of Bagdad : he marched day and night, going two days journey in twenty-four hours, imaging that the bare rumor of his approach would strike a terror into the heart of the Sultan, and make him abandon the city. But affairs took a quite different turn; for when Miran Chah was at the dome of Ibrahim Lic, he received advice from Tauris, that a great number of the principal men of the kingdom were considered against him; which nevertheless did not hinder his progress to Bagdad. But the Sultan Ahmed, knowing it was not a proper season to besiege the place, because of the great dryness and heat of the weather, resolved to defend himself. In the mean while couriers came incessantly from Tauris with reiterated advice of the conspiracy, and even of the revolt of the principal inhabitants; so that the Mirza, two days after the arrival of the great standard before Bagdad, was constrained to return to Tauris with expedition : he was no sooner entered into that capital of Media, than he put all those to the sword who were accused of being in the conspiracy, of which number was the Cadi. During the autumn he suspected that the Sheriff Ali, prince of Cheki, of the tribe of Erlat, would revolt from his obedience : for which cause, without examining into the truth of it, he marched into the field at the head of his army, and went to pillage his country.

When the Georgians, who by their acts of hostility had already drawn of themselves Timur's anger, were informed of the Mirza Miran Chah's small application to public affairs, they became so insolent, that during Timur's expedition in India they revolted. At the same time the Sultan Taher, son of the Sultan of Bagdad,

was with his troops in the fortress of Alengic, which had been besieged a long time, according to Timur's orders, by the Sultan Senger, son of Hadgi Seifeddin. The besiegers, the better to carry on the siege, had built a great wall round the place, so that no one could get in or out. This conjuncture caused the Georgians to get together a great number of troops : and even the Sheriff Ali, though a good Mussulman, joined these infidels, to revenge himself for the Mirza Miran Chah's having pillaged his country. The Georgians came before Alegnic with a great army, being resolved to deliver the Sultan Taher, who had been so pressed, that his hearth, as one may say, was in his mouth; and entering Azerbijana, they sacked the country, pillaged the Mussulmans effects, and committed all imaginable disorders.

Sultan Sendger, on advice of this, raised the siege, and marched to Tauris to give an account of this strange accident to Miran Chah, who immediately ordered his son the Mirza Aboubecre to march with four or five Emirs before Alengic, to repulse the Georgians, and put a stop to their disorders; which they could not do with so much expedition, but the Georgians got first to the place, from whence having made the Sultan Taher go out, they placed Alengic in the hands of Hadgi Haleh, and three famous Oznaours of Georgia and then returned home, their design being only to deliver the Sultan Taher. Yet by chance they met the army of Tauris, which being far less numerous endeavored to avoid them; but that being impossible, the Oznaours resolutely advanced as if assured of the victory : at the first onset they broke through the wings of the army of Tauris; and the Sheriff Ali, perceiving Aboubecre, rushed upon him out of the main body sword in hand, to revenge the ruin his father had brought upon his country : but this young prince, who was but eighteen years old, kept his ground, and let fly an arrow of walnut-wood against the Sheriff, with so much skill, that he struck him near the collar of his helmet of gold, which he pierced and the arrow stuck in his neck; so that the rash Cherif fell down dead on a sudden. This vigorous action of the young prince did not hinder the Georgians gaining the victory; for they totally defeated the army of Tauris, and returned into their own country, while the Murza Aboubecre saved himself by flight.

These melancholy events were the consequences of the Mirza Muran Chah's being lunatic; which yet appeared in a more shameful manner in his excesses and debauches; for he employed almost all his time in drinking and gaming. And as one vice is always attended by another, he fell into greater extravagances. As he was one day in conversation with his wife the princess Canzade, he reproached her with a fact which wounded her honor, with which this chaste princess was so sensibly touched, that she used all her endeavors to discover the source of this calumny ; in which search the lives of several men and women were sacrificed; and even the Mirza's Visier, Dolet Coja Einac, was obliged to fly with his wife to Beyan Coutchin at Rei, leaving all he had got during the time of his ministry to plundered. The aversion of the Mirza and Canzade so far increased, that the princess, being highly incensed, was obliged to go to Samacand, where she arrived just as Timur returned from the Indian war, and had begun to take some recreation after the fatigues of that expedition, and inform himself of the present affairs of the empire. This was a favorable time for the princess to be revenged; for Timur had been already informed of the many disorders committed in the kingdom of Iran, and especially in Azerbijana, though the ill conduct of the Mirza. Canzade at her arrival had the honor to kiss the imperial carpet in the castle of plane-trees, where she acquainted his majesty with her husband's distemper, assuring him that if he did not march towards that kingdom, the Mirza would not fail of revolting, since he now made flight of the imperial mandates and prohibitions, and had squandered away the treasures of Azerbijana in debauches and prodigality.

These reasons obliged Timur, before he had reposed himself after the fatigues of the last campaign, from which he had not returned above four months, to take up a resolution to carry his arms into the countries of Iran, to put a stop to the disorders which had crept in there, to succor the weak, curb the insolent, and deliver those who were fallen under the weight of injustice and tyranny. [II, 108-113](#)

Chap V.

Timur Marches into Georgia, and to the defile of Comcha.

Timur designing to carry his arms into Georgia, in obedience to the precept of the Alcoran, which teaches us to wage war upon all who disbelieve the mussulman religion, he began to make preparations from the winter of 802 (An. Dom. 1399), being then encamped at Carabagh Arran.

He gave a vest to the Cheik Ibrahim of Chirvan, and another to Sidi Ahmed of Cheki; and after having loaded them with his favors, he permitted them to return home. He chose three men out of every ten to serve as scouts, whom he ordered to take victuals for ten days : and he commanded the baggage and rest of the army to stay in this place. He went to join these scouts with the Mirzas his sons; and being arrived at the river of Abcor (Cyrus), he crossed it with his troops on a bridge of boats. Soon after he was joined by the Cheik Ibrahim of Chirvan, and Sidi Ahmed, prince of Cheki, who came to follow the court.

The imperial army passed by Cheki, and took the road of the defile of Comcha, where there the infidels dwelt : and as this defile was full of thick woods, the trees of which were very closely interwoven with one another, the soldiers had orders to cut them down to facilitate their passage. Accordingly they made a road with their axes and saws ten days journey in length, and broad enough for five or six companies to march in front. At that time it snowed exceedingly for twenty days together; but that could not hinder Timur from arriving with his army in Georgia. Our man made the great cry, Allah Ecber, and fell upon the enemy with so much fury, that the surface of the mountain which the snows had before rendered white, with the blood of these infidels became as red as fields shown with tulips; and no quarter was given to any they met. Comcha the chief of these infidels, who disbelieve any future judgment, was obliged to abandon his effects and family, and fly. Our soldiers pursued him as far as the defile of Acsou, and returned with a great many oxen, sheep, and other cattle. After Comcha's flight, and retreating into the woods, they set fire to his houses, and pillaged and ruined all his villages. And as wine was absolutely necessary for this people; their men, women, and little children being so accustomed to it, that when they were on their dead-bed, they entreated that some might be buried in their sepulchers with them, and ordered by their wills that after their deaths their bodies should be washed with wine , and their coffins made with vine-tree : for this consideration, that they might do them the more damage, and entirely ruin them, the vine-trees were distributed among the troops, who rooted up all of them, which they had with so great difficulty cultivated; they also cut down other trees, and peeled several. They afterwards razed the great edifices of this country, and especially the temples, where they paid their adorations, which were disagreeable to God. And what is remarkable is, that in the winter of the preceding year, which was that of the Leopard, Timur destroyed the Guebres of India, and ruined their temples at Deli, and upon the Ganges; and that the winter, which was the year of the Hare, he was carrying on the same war of religion of Georgia, and razing the temples of the Georgians. The poet says that he had one foot on the eastern frontiers of India, and the other upon the western limits of the country of Arran.

[II,126-128](#)

Chap VI.

Timur's return from the defile of Comcha.

Timur staid near a month in this defile; and his soldiers had made themselves masters of all the mountains, after having slain an infinite number of brave Oznaours, whose prince Comcha was retired to so great distance, that no advice could be got of the place he was in; and the enemy's country was entirely ruined : besides all this, the cold was very violent, and the ways were clogged (?) up with snow, so that the horses had nothing to eat but the barks of trees, and even several of them died with hunger. Whereupon Timur resolved to return : he repassed the river of Cyrus, and came back with glory to Carabagh, where he entered his imperial tent with the acclamation of all the lords and princes of his court. The joy at his presence was augmented by the birth of a son to the Mirza Chalil Sultan : this young prince was named Berkul; and several days were spent in sprinkling gold and precious stones upon him : they had banquets and plays, accompanied with music, to celebrate this happy birth. Soon after a severe order was issued out, for prosecuting those in a council of war, who had not behaved themselves as they ought in the battle fought by the Mirza Miran Chah against the Georgians, in the neighborhood of Alengic. The Mirza Charoc was commissioned to see to the putting this order in execution; who having examined all the facts, in council with the Emirs of the Divan, they presented a memorial to the emperor, with the several interrogatories, informations and proofs : upon which Timur ordered the punishment due by the laws of Genghiz Can to be executed. The bastinado was given to Hadgi Abdalla Abbas, and Mehemed Calfan : Yumne Haraizai Aperdi, who had fled first, was ordered to be put to death; but the Chah Zades, or emperor's children, obtained the favor of the being preprived after the bastinado before and behind; and each of these three lords was find thirty horses. They also find the principal officers of the Mirza Miran Chah, some at fifty, some at two hundred, and some of three hundred horses; which horses were distributed among the foot-soldiers.

Timur bestowed many favors and honors on the Mirza Aboubecre, because of the valor he had shown in the fight, when he unhorsed Sidi Ali king of Cheki. At the same time the prince Burhan Aglen was like wife put to death, for having committed some considerable faults, very unworthy of his birth, in several skirmishes. His son was treated in the same manner; and his regiment, officers and domestics were given to Roustem Foulad. [II,128-130](#)

Chap VIII.

A diet in relation to the affair of Georgia.

After winter was over, that is, in the beginning of the year of Crocodile, Timur left his winter-quarters at Carabagh. He assembled a diet, whereto the princes his sons, the Emirs, the lords and general officers did not fail of coming : he held a council with them, in which it was unanimously resolved that the war with the infidels of Georgia was preferable to all others, as well for the good of religion, which ought to be the principal object of war, as for the increase of the power of monarchy, and the conjuncture of the present affairs. The usual feast was made after the diet; and the banquet, which was very sumptuous, was accompany with all the forts of plays and pleasures. Timur, excited by a define of liberality, distributed the treasures among the Chah Zades, his sons, the Emirs and all the soldiers of the army, and gave horses to whose who were on foot. He afterwards informed himself of the roads and quarters of Georgia, where they should encamp, and had them very exactly let down in writing : and then imploring the divine assistance, he

departed from Carabagh, taking the road to Georgia, the country of Malek Ghurghin. In ten days he arrived at the plain of Berdaa, where he encamped, and gave audience to Taharten, prince of Arzendgian upon the Euphrates, who had already gained his majesty's favor by his good services. This prince kissed the earth before Timur; made a discourse in his praise, full of vows for his prosperity; and offered his presents. Timur being willing to distinguish him by very particular favors, not only gave him a vest, a cap and a belt, but he further honored him with a horse-tail, a standard, and two kettle-drums, which are the signs of sovereignty : and then he permitted him to return to Arzedgian, after having given him instructions concerning the application and care he ought to use in the Government of the city in the present conjuncture; and expressly recommended to him to use circumspection to preserve his frontiers from the insult of the Ottomans; to which purpose he ought to be watchful, cautious, and liberal to his soldiers, and neglect nothing to protect himself from his enemies artifices, who are very politic and dangerous.

Timur departed from Berdaa, and after several days journey arrived at the frontiers of Georgia. He immediately dispatched an express to Malek Ghourghin, to send to the camp the prince Taher, son of Sultan Ahmed Jalair. The messenger acquitted himself of his commission; but the king of Georgia, Ghourghin, returned him a very uncivil answer. The express came back without obtaining anything, and gave an account to Timur of all that had passed in the Audience. The rashness of this refusal kindled his wrath against these infidels; wherefore leaving the baggage, he went before, and ordered his troops to enter the lands of the Georgians, and to put everything to fire and sword. The soldiers flew everyone they met, ruined the houses of Georgians, and even rooted up the trees : they destroyed the vines, spoiled the fruits, and brought a terrible desolation upon this country. The affrighted Georgians fled for refuge into their high mountains, where no one had ever yet conquered them; for here were fortified caverns, and houses upon craggy rocks which it would in vain to think anyone could enter by force of arms. They had entrenched themselves in those places, and carried with them whatever they could find worth taking. Timur's soldiers, without examining the dangers to which they were exposed, and full of confidence in their prince's good fortune, ascended the mountains, and then laid themselves in boxes, to which strong cords were fastened, and so were led down by their comrades from the tops of the mountains to the caverns of the Georgians; where discharging their arrows, they approached the enemies, and flew the most advanced : then taking lances in one hand, and swords in the other, they entered the caverns, notwithstanding the vigorous resistance the enemies, of whom they made a horrible slaughter.. Among these craggy places there were some so well defended, that our men were obliged to cast a great quantity of combustible matter, as well to dissipate the enemies, as to burn their wooden houses, and the entrenchments they had made, Thus by the assistance of heaven, though these infidels sought with all imaginable resolution, the mussulman soldiers had the advantage over them, according to the promise of the Alcoran; taking fifteen noted places, on which they very much relied. Those who would turn Mussulmans obtained quarter : but those who, though the temptation of the devil, stubbornly continued in the disbelief of the Alcoran, were beheaded.

Timur left several of the best troops of Corassana in the garrison of the city Teflis, capital of Georgia, and then went to the encamp in the plain of Mocran. The king Ghourghin being terrified at the success of the Mahometans, fled into the deserts, and as a vagabond wandered about the uninhabited mountains : but the greatest part of Oznaours of Georgia, seeing themselves reduced to the utmost extremity, submitted, they came in a humble manner to the gate of the imperial pavilion, where they begged quarter and pardon of the victorious Timur, making divers excuses to avert his vengeance. When our troops had reduced this country, they razed the temples and monasteries, where the Georgians had for a long time exercised their religion;

and erected chapels and mosques, in which they proclaimed the Ezan, and read the prayers of the mussulman religion with usual ceremony, to the glory of Timur. [II,136-139](#)

Chap IX.

Timur Marches against prince Jani Bec, a Georgian.

After the conquest and destruction of the country of Malek Ghourghin, Timur resolved to attack the other provinces of Georgia. He departed with expedition from the plain of Mocran, and leaving the baggage, marched towards the defile of Jani Bec. When they were arrived there, the troops surrounded all the country, pillaged it, and brought away a considerable booty. Jani Bec soon abandoned his mountain and fortress; and with an entire submission came before the emperor. In the mean while our soldiers ravaged the villages, burn the houses, and flew everyone they met : they carried away the Georgians effects; and while they enriched themselves in this world, they were laying up treasures to merit in the other. Afterwards they returned to join the baggage; and Timur sent, by the way of Semave, the Seid Coja, son of the Cheik Ali Bahader, to make inroads in other parts of Georgia : he ordered the Emir Gehan Chah to pass the defile with the troops of the left wing : and the main body, commanded by Timur, passed by Semave, where it was joined by all the troops which were gone out to make inroads in the provinces, from whence they returned loaded with spoils, bringing away a great number of horses and sheep; and, to mortify of the Georgians the more, our soldiers destroyed all the standing corn, and ruined their temples and other edifices. At the mouth of the defile was a fortress names Bil, which was very high and difficult of access : nevertheless our army was no sooner arrived there than they had orders to besiege it; and the siege and conquest of the place were almost performed at the same time. Having taken it, they razed it, left it should be of use to the enemy on another occasion. From hence the army went to encamp in the true ancient Georgia; and Timur sent the Emirs in all parts in search of king Ghourghin, who, like wolves and chacals, wandered as a vagabond in uninhabited woods and mountains : but not being able to find him, they returned to join the imperial camp with a great quantity of spoils, and some of Ghurghin's officers whom they had taken. Timur at length decamped, crossed the river of Cyrus, and happily encamped on the other bank, loaded with good fortune, and pleased with his victories. [II,139-141](#)

Chap X.

The taking of the fort of Zeris, and the town of Suanit.

During these transactions, the spies brought advice that a great number of Oznaours were retired into the castle of Zerit, situate on the ridge of a narrow mountain, which had never been taken by any conqueror. On this, Timur, to whom nothing appeared impossible, marched with expedition towards this place, and ordered it to be besieged. The machines and battering rams were got ready; and after several attacks necessary at a siege, a general assault was given seven days after Timur's arrival. The fort was taken sword in hand, and razed the same day, after putting all these Georgians to the sword. Then they went out to make inroads, and brought away a great number of prisoners bound, whom the emperor ordered to be put to death, because they would not turn Mahhometans. They afterwards received advice that king Ghourghin was in the town of Suanit. Timur ordered the roads to this town to be taken down in writing; and that the troops which were gone out to make inroads, should return to the camp. He left one half of the army with the baggage; and with ensigns displayed marched with the rest. But Ghourghin, who had his spies about him, had advice of

Timur's approach, he went out of Suanit, and fled towards Abkhaze. The troops, at their arrival at Suanit, carried it upon the first assault, and then went in pursuit of Ghourghin, several of whose officers they slew; but this prince, reduced to the greatest misery, crossed the rivers of Aigar and Corlan, and had the good fortune to save himself from the dangers wherewith he was surrounded. Then seeing himself, in a manner, ready for the slaughter, he found it was not for so weak a prince as himself to protect the son of the Sultan of Bagdad, against the powerful emperor Timur : whereupon he obliged Taher to seek an asylum in the country of the Ottomans, whither he had heard the Sultan Ahmed his father was likewise fled. At length Ghourghin sent to the court of Timur an ambassador names Ismael, who made known to him the great misery and extremity to which his master was reduced; deplored the ruin of his state, and destruction of his country; and with his face turned towards the ground, and spoke thus to the emperor with all submission that could be expected from a miserable and vanquished prince :

"I have seen the evil success of the methods I have so unfortunately taken, I have tasted the fruits of my imprudence, and the bitterness of the punishment I have merited : but if the great emperor, whose generosity after victory, I may venture to say, surpasses the fury of his arms in battle, will take pity upon me, who am his servant, and confess my fault, and is willing to pardon me for what is past, and grant me my life, I will not only entirely obedient to him, but my life shall always be employed in his service. I will take great care not to hurt Mussulmans in any manner : and moreover I consent to pay the annual tribute to the imperial treasury; likewise promising to send what number of troops his majesty shall order into his service, at the time appointed." [II,141-143](#)

Chap XI.

Timur Marches against the Georgian prince Aivani.

Timur, upon hearing this discourse of Ghourghin's ambassador, was touched with the condition of this prince, and did not doubt the truth of what he said; considering the great misery and necessity to which he was reduced, his sincere confession of his fault, and his repentance for having dared to give protection of to the Sultan Taher. These considerations, joinder with promises he had made, and confirmed with oath, to be always ready in the emperor's service, and punctually to pay the annual tribute, caused Timur to grant him the pardon he demanded; who then went out of his country and marched towards the lands subject to prince Aivani, one of the most powerful sovereigns of Georgia. The soldiers having entered his country, ravaged and pillaged all they met; and as there was no army to oppose them they dispersed themselves up and down, ruining the towns and castles, and destroying everything with fire and sword. After they had entirely laid this country waste, they passed into that of Cara Calcanic, the inhabitants of which, armed with black bucklers, were skillful mountaineers, and good horsemen. They were not treated with more mildness than other others; for their country was ravaged, and the places razed whither they were retired, their houses burnt, and themselves put to the sword, after soldiers had got what spoils they could from them, which were very considerable. [II, 143-144](#)

Chap XII.

Timur's return from Georgia.

Timur being satisfied with the conquests he had gained, and having revenged himself on the Georgians, gave orders for his return. After several days march he encamped at Yeilac Mencoul; but having advice that the enemy were again assembled in a place enemy were again assembled in a place named Fasangherd in Georgia, he sent the Emir Cheik Nouredin thither with his troops; and being willing to be in person at the execution of all important affairs, he decamped some days after, and leaving the baggage, marched to Farasgherd. In five days he made himself master of seven fortresses of the Georgians, which he caused to be razed, after having slain an infinite number of the infidels; and from thence he returned with all his army to Mencoul, where he staid several days.

About this time there came ambassadors from an European prince, who brought with them son of the Emir Amurat, the Ottoman emperor, whom they had taken prisoner : and by the intercession of the principal Emirs of the court, they were admitted into Timur's audience; to whom they made known the high esteem their master had conceived of his actions, and his desire to enter into an alliance with him, which should account a great honor. Timur received the ambassadors with all manner of civility, granted them what they desired, and after having given them rich vests, dismissed them; and they returned home by the way of Trebizond, pleased with the honors they had received at court. The army lay encamped two months in the meadow of Mencoul, that the horses might have some rest after their fatigue, and to wait the arrival of the Emirs and troops which were dispersed up and down the country. [II,144-145](#)

Chap XXXI.

Timur sends troops into Georgia, and to Bagdad.

The army being departed from Merdin, Pir Mehemed , Omar Cheik, and Aboubecre, as also the Emirs Gehan Chah, Timur Coja, Seid Coja, and others, to march with a great body of the army to Alengic by the way of Ahmed, to make themselves masters of Alengic, and from thence to pass into Georgia. The Mirzas and Emirs departed according to order : but as Alengic had been besieged already two years by others of our troops, (for when they army marched towards Sebaste, the Cheik Mehemed Deroga, with the troops of the Mirza Miran Chah, Firouz Chah, and the Mirza Charoc went to besiege it, and pressed it so closely, that most of the inhabitants died of hunger; they being in so great want of victuals, as to be obliged to eat old leather, skins and such like things, to appease their hunger; and even these things failing them at last, constrained them to go out and deliver up the place) Alengic, I say, having been besieged two years, when the Mirzas and Emirs came near Avenic, and heard of reduction of Alengic, instead of marching to it, they turned towards the right for Georgia. They made great haste to surprise the Georgians, whose country they ravaged. This exceedingly disturbed Malek Ghourghin, who sent an ambassador to the Mirzas, to acquaint them with the great surprise he was in at their coming into his country, seeing he was one of the emperor's most faithful servants, and to assure them that as soon as his highness should come into those quarters, he would not fail of paying his obedience to him. This Mirzas sent an express to court with advice of Ghourghin's submission; they ceased ravaging his countries, and staid at Mencoul, which is a place proper to pass the summer in, to wait the answer of the court, and know whether the emperor would grant quarter to Ghourghin. The same day and order was issued out for the Sultan Mahmoud Can, the Mirza Rustem, the Emir Solyman Chah, and other Emirs, to march at the head of their Tomans and companies towards the city of Bagdad... [II,208-210](#)

Chap XXXVI.

Timur marches into Georgia, and to Carabagh Arran.

Timur having staid some days at Tauris, resolved to march into Georgia : he went to encamp at Comtoupa, where he ordered the Coja Ismael Cavasi to be hanged before the market-place of the camp, to punish him for the tyrannies he had exercised upon the people. He afterwards crossed the river Araxes, and went to encamp with all the army at Nakchivan. And as the castle of Alengic was near Nakchivan, he was desirous to see that strong place, which had been taken by his soldiers in so short a time; and carrying with him the empresses, with the princes his sons, and his favorite Emirs, he carefully examined the place, and returned to his camp.

About this time Taharten arrived at court, where his knees he presented Bajazet's letter, gave an account of his repentance, and begged pardon for him; which he did with so much eloquence, that he appeased the emperor's wrath, and obtained his desire. Timur staid some days at this place, during which time he sent an ambassador into Georgia, to Malek Ghourghin, to demand the tribute of him. Then the Mirzas, Pir Mehemed son of Omar Cheik, Sultan Hussein and Aboubecre, with the Emirs who had been sent to Mencoul, to join the Mirza Charoc, arrived at court, and saluted the emperor. The army decamped from the meadow of Nakchivan, went to the defile Chahboz, and entered into the mountains. Timur being arrived at Gheuktheytonkez, had a desire to take the diversion of hunting; and when the circle began to close as usual, they took a very great number of stags. After this chase they encamped, and the Mirza Charoc returned with his Emirs, and had honors to salute the emperor at that place. Afterwards they departed; and when they were encamped at Chemkour, which is a delicious place, Idecou, son of Coja Seifeddin Berlas, arrived there from Kirman; he kissed the imperial carpet, and made his presents. The commissary, whom Timur had sent into Georgia to receive the tribute imposed on Malek Ghourghin, likewise returned to the same place. That prince sent with him his own brother, loaded with curious presents, among which were horses and animals proper for the chase; he also sent the tribute imposed on him. He had an audience of the emperor, by the intercession of the great Emirs; and having offered his presents, related the subject of his embassy. He said that the king his brother had resolved to continue obedient to the laws of the emperor the Mussulmans; that if he had committed any fault, he sincerely repented of it; and if his highness would pardon him, he would not let one opportunity slip of rendering him his services; that he would faithfully pay his annual tribute, and always keep troops ready to march where his highness should please to order them.

Timur pardoned Malek Ghourghin; he looked upon his brother with a favorable eye, and giving him a vest, permitted him to return home. He ordered him to acquaint his brother that he forgave him, and would quit his country, on condition that he kept within the bounds of his duty; that he treated the Mussulmans of Georgia civilly, and protected them from all insults and oppressions; and that he raised an army, which he should send directly to the imperial camp... [II,222-224](#)

Chap XLII.

Taking of the castle of Tartoum.

Timur Having been informed that there was a strong place in those quarters, named Tartoum, in which were two hundred Georgians who refused to pay tribute, and insulted the Mussulmans and passengers; and that the prince who commanded them was absent, and had left in his place a lieutenant named Ghurdgibec : his highness commanded the Emirs Chamelik, Cheik Nouredin, and others, to attack the place, and take it at any rate. They accordingly came before it; and sent to acquaint the enemy, that if they would willingly surrender, and pay the tribute, they should have quarter; but they refused so to do, and trusting in the strength of the castle, prepared to defend themselves. Our soldiers made the Great cry, Alla Ecber, and Salli Alla Mehammed; and having invested the place, they gave several assaults, discharging infinite showers of arrows. The besieged vigorously defended themselves for five days; and the sixth the place was taken : our man put all Georgians to the sword, and having overthrown the walls, they razed the place, even to the very foundations. The governor, who escaped, came to the foot of the throne to beg pardon; and obtained quarter for his life... [II,238-239](#)

Chap I.

Timur Marches into Georgia.

Timur-Bec's greatest ambition being to merit the happiness promised to those who wage war with the infidels for the advancement of religion; and Ghourghin king of Georgia, having failed in the principal article of the treaty made the preceding year, which was to have come at a fixed time to cast himself at the emperor's feet, and beg pardon; his highness took up a resolution to march again into his country. To this end, he departed towards Mencoul, where he received the submissions of Malek Issa prince of Merdin, who repenting of his faults in not coming before to pay his homage, and knowing he should be ruined if he lost Timur's favor, confidently set out to come to court; where he presently addressed himself to the Mirza Charoc, whose protection he besought. This Mirza brought him to the throne, where with his head uncovered, like a criminal, he begged pardon on his knees. Timur having reprimanded him, forgave his faults, and comforted him by his kind promises. This prince brought the tribute for several years past, which he paid exactly, and made abundance of handsome presents. The emperor gave him a crown, a royal vest, and a belt set with precious stones; and as an addition to the former favors conferred on him, his daughter was betrothed to the Mirza Aboubecre, and so he had the honor to be allied to Timur.

At the same time Youani grandson of Acbouga, a Georgian prince, came to pay his homage to the emperor, and made several presents of curious animals and fine horses; being introduced by the great Emirs, with Custendil, brother of Malek Ghourghin, king of Georgia, who was at war with him. There came also the lords and princes of all the neighboring places, to pay their respects, and offer their presents. Timur received them with all manner of civility according to their birth and quality : he assured them of his favor, and presenting them with vests, sent them back to their respective countries. [II,299-301](#)

Chap IV.

Timur's arrival at the frontiers of Georgia.

Timur having decamped from neighborhood of Cars, entered Georgia. After having passed through Armenia, the Cheik Ibrahim prince of Chirvan, as a faithful servant, was gone before to make inroads into the enemy's country, and had already seized on some passages and defiles. Malek Ghourghin, king of Georgia, heard with a great deal of surprise of the march of the imperial standard, fear excited him to send ambassadors to court with several presents; and the subject the embassy was comprised in his speech : " There is no comparison, great Sir, between you and me, who am your slave; and it is very astonishing that you should have proposed to march against so mean a subject as I am, who am absolutely resolved to behave myself as your faithful servant; and on the first order I shall receive from your officers, whether to send in money, or to march at the head of my troops in your service, I will not fail of acquitting myself faithfully and readily. I have not the confidence to come down directly to cast myself at the foot of your throne, for fear has too far seized my hearth : but if your highness shall please to grant me a short reprieve, till my fear is blown over, I will run to kiss your feet, as the prince of Merdin, and other governors have done; and I shall have the honor to prostrate myself before you, and receive your orders as a slave, acknowledging this favor as an excess of your bounty.

Timur would not hearken to what the ambassadors said, nor accept their presents : he told them, that their masters affair was no ways like that of the other princes, who were Mahometans, because the interest of religion pleaded for them, and rendered their faults more pardonable; but he being a Christians, ought not to expect the same favor; that if he was desirous of life, he must come directly to court; but if the grace of God should not grant him sufficient assistance to enable him to embrace the Mahometan religion, he would impose the tribute of the Carage on him, leave him once more the principality of his country, send him back contented, and suffer his subjects to live in peace, without fear of being either murdered, pillaged, or made slaves; and thus his honor and reputation would remain unblemished. He likewise told them, that the emperor of Constantinople, as a Christian, was on the same footing with him; that if Ghourghin had come to court, he would have learnt how that prince had been treated, and what favors he had received; and that he ought to judge of his own case by the other : but if their master made the least difficulty of coming, none of his excuses should be accepted of. At length the ambassadors were dismissed.

About this time Beyan Coutchin, governor of Tauris, came to court with the comptrollers and great officers of Azerbaijan : they offered their presents consisting of a great number of horses, animals, and other things. Ali Chacani, chief of the Divan of Corassana, for the Coja Ali Semnani, came also to offer his presents, which were distributed among the officers.

The season for the corn-harvest in Georgia approaching, it was requisite that the Georgians should be hindered from reaping and carrying it in; whereupon Timur ordered the Emir Cheik Nouredin, and other Emirs, to enter the enemy's country forthwith : in effect, they chased out all the inhabitants, and destroyed everything with fire and sword; they reaped all the corn and pulse, which they ground into meal, and so returned laden with spoils to their imperial camp. [II,306-308](#)

Chap V.

Taking of the famous castle of Cortene in Georgia.

There is a steep mountain in Georgia, a hundred and fifty cubits high, situate between two very deep defiles ; on the south of it is a rock, which surpassed it in height, and which they ascend with ladders and cords. There is but one way to this mountain, and that very narrow and crooked; besides, the precipices which surround it hinder an army from encamping and besieging it. The Georgians had fortified this mountain on all sides, having built houses upon it, and a gate at the very extremity, with cisterns to preserve rain-water. It was commanded by a Georgian prince named Tral, who had under him thirty great Osnaours, and a strong garrison; they were not apprehensive of any scarcity, their cisterns being filled with water, their cellars furnished with delicious wines, and the place stored with swine and sheep.

Timur being apprised of the importance of the place, resolved to take it, notwithstanding the great difficulties which would attend the siege, as it was in the middle of the enemy's country, and would require a great number of soldiers to carry it on, who would not be able to find victuals and even water enough for them. Everyone was surprised at this undertaking, and believed it impossible to take the place; unless the sole fear of Timur, who designed to go there in person, should seize the hearts of the besieged, and make them surrender : but God had otherwise ordered it.

The imperial standard arrived before the castle of Cortene on the 14th of Muharrem 806 (Aug. 13. 1403).The inhabitants immediately sent to salute the emperor, offer him their presents, and assure him of their submission; but feeling their flatteries could not hinder the place being attacked, they confided in the strength of their walls, and declared war by a discharge of arrows and stones. Timur at the same time ordered the Emirs to take their posts round about the place : the Emir Chamelic was fixed on the side of the gate, having orders to build sconces over-against it : two other Emirs had likewise orders to erect two sconces in different places. This was done, that in the siege should last too long, a garrison might be put in them, to incommode the place. Chamelic finished in three days one of these sconces capable to contain three thousand men; which excited the admiration of the whole army.

Timur encamped behind the fortress in a place proper to build battering-rams and other machines, and ordered a platform of stone and wood, which is called Meljour, to be built between his camp and the castle, so high that it should command the place, though the Georgians had imagined that the height of their mountain would have preserved them from all manner of insults.

The work was not finished in less than a week; and on the 21st of Muhharem, a Mecrit, named Bikidbek, who was skillful in marching over mountains, found means during night to get unperceived upon a rock, south of the castle; there he caught a goat, and carried it to the very top of the rock, where having killed it, he placed it for a signal, and then descended without being seen by the Georgians. Next day Bikidbek related his adventure to the emperor, who applauded him, and gave orders for some very strong cords to be made of raw silk and thread, and ladders to be made of the cords : and then four Mecrits immediately ascended this rock, and drew up the ladders with long cords. On the 23^d of Muhharem this design was executed : they mounted by an arch, which a goat could scarcely pass. A tree having grown out of the very ridge of this

rock, they had drawn them up. The Emir Chamelic staid at the bottom of the ladders, and made fifty of the bravest Turks of Corassana ascend, whose names he took down in writing : Argoudac was one of them. The Georgians were fast asleep while these things were passing. At break of day a Corassanian cried out with a loud voice, Allah Ecber, and blessed Mahomed. Mahmoud, an officer of the Mirza Charoc, at the same time founded trumpet; and the Georgians surprised at the alarm given them by the watch, ran to their arms to defend themselves. Timur took horse, passed the defile, and stopped over-against the rock, which our brave men had mounted : he ordered the brass drum to be beat, and the great cry Souroun made throughout thr whole army.

In the meanwhile, the way to the place by the rock being very narrow and dangerous, no more than three persons being able to march in front, one of our brave warriors marched foremost, holding his buckler before him; he was sustained by two others, who advanced with him, but an arrow struck in the mouth, which made him fall backwards, and the enemies seized sword in hand, and slew some Georgians, till being mortally wounded in ten or twelve places, he fell down through weakness. The Turk Mahmoud fell upon the enemies with a heavy club, with which he broke the leg of a very considerable Oznaour. In fine, of the fifty men who had mounted to the assault, several arrived at the gate of the castle, where a bloody skirmish ensued. Some also continued to attack the place from the Meljour before mentioned, so that the gate was Broke, and the troops entered the castle.

This conquest happened the 23rd Muhharem (August 22), after a siege of nine days. The besieged begged for quarter on their knees : but Most of the Oznaours or officers were precipitated from the walls : The governor, Tral, was bound and carried to the imperial camp with the whole garrison, of whom not one escaped. At the same time the Toughe and standard of Mahomet was erected upon the walls; and the Muezins repeated the prayers of the Alcoran on the top of the church, and made the cry Yzan, which is used to call the Mahometans to prayers. This conquest deserves to be recorded in history; and it is reported that the great Mahmoud Subectekin never gained so considerable victories over the infidels of India, as our conqueror did over those of Georgia. Timur ordered Tral and all the garrison to be beheaded, and their wives and children carried away captive; and he gave Tral's wife as a present to the Cheik Ibrahim, prince of Chirvan.

Timur afterwards ordered the machines, and Meljour, which had been erected against the place, to be burnt; and he returned to his camp, where he heaped honors and favors on Bikidgek and the other brave men who had first mounted the rock; he ordered mony out of his treasury to be distributed among them, and gave them robes, sabres, belts, horses, mules, tents, umbrellas, young women, camels, furniture, and even gardens and villages in their respective countries. He invested Mehemed Touran, surnamed the king of Bouran, who was one of the principal lords of Corassana, in the government of the place, assigning him a good garrison of Corassanians : he gave him the revenues of the neighboring countries, and enjoined him to preserve these frontiers for the Mussulmans, and not permit the Georgians to gain anymore footing in the country; he ordered him to convert the church into a mosque, and build a niche in it instead of the altar, and in lieu of bells and crosses, to establish Muezins and readers of the Alcoran, according to the Mussulman law. II, 308-313

Chap VII.

Timur Marches to Abkhaze.

After taking of Cortene, Timur summoned the lords to a diet, where he made a magnificent banquet, and distributed his favors among the officers, according to their ranks. He then took up a resolution to march to Abkhaze : he ordered the Emirs Cheik Nouredin, Chamelik, and others, to set out before with several squadrons, to ravage and lay waste Georgia, as far as Abkhaze, which is the northern frontier of that kingdom. They accordingly began their march; but as the ways were full of woods, the soldiers were obliged to cut down the trees to open a passage; and they ruined everything they met with in the countries of the Armenians and Georgians. They were followed by the imperial standard; and Timur soon after entered into the middle of Georgia where he plundered seven hundred towns and villages, laying waste the cultivated lands, ruining the monasteries of the Christians, and razing their churches to the very foundation, which were built of marble and free-stone.

But the Georgians having abandoned their houses, were retired into caverns situate among rocks and high mountains, which they had ascended by ladders, which they drew up after them; and had fortified themselves in these caverns. Timur ordered a fort of boxes to be tied with chains, in each of which he placed several persons armed : these boxes were let down from the top of the mountain with great cords to the level of the caverns, where out dauntless soldiers attacked the enemies with their arrows, and advanced to the mouths of the caverns with their swords and lances. They made their way into them notwithstanding the number of enemies, and the advantage of their post; and tho in some of these caverns there were near a hundred Georgians, yet they leaped out of their boxes into them, where they pull all to the sword, making themselves masters of their spoils, and acquiring the merit of the Gazie. They punctually fulfilled the Alcoran, which enjoins us to treat the enemies of the Mussulman religion with rigor; and they rooted up and burnt the trees, making havock every where.

The 14th of Rabiulevel 806 (October 12,1403), the Emirs and troops rejoined the imperial camp : next day they all pursued the chace, and took a great deal of game. Timur hunted the day after, and continued to ruin the country, flying all the Georgians he met.

[II,314-315](#)

Chap VIII.

Timur returns from Abkhaze. The cause of his return.

Several Georgian lords, who were slaves in Timur's army, having sent advice to king Ghourghin that this conqueror had rendered himself master of the country as far as Abkhaze, and that there remained no footsteps either of Armenia, or the Armenians ; that prince was seized with fear, because this advice came from men of his own nation : where upon he immediately sent ambassadors with presents to Timur. The remonstrance the Georgian slaves made to Ghourghin on this occasion, resembles of counsel the bishop of Nedgeran gave to his own people in the time of Mahomet. There goes a tradition that the inhabitants if Nedgeran being come to Medina, were to stubborn and proud as to dispute with Mahomet, and not receive the instructions he would have taught them. Then the lord Ali, with Mahomet's daughter Fatima, and two grandsons Hasan and Hussein, came to the assembly to dispute with the Christian bishop : but this doctor, being surprised at what he saw, far from disputing said, "The man I know behold have their faces irradiated : if they should beseech God to remove the mountains of the place, he would assuredly grant their request : and if they should be suffered to offer up their prayers against the Christians, not one of them would remain alive." These words of the Bishop struck terror into the Christians, who consented to pay the annual tribute; after which they returned to Nedgeran, because their bishop had on the occasion seen the lords of Mahomet's family transformed into angelical beauties. It seems as if some such vision had engaged the Georgian slaves to write thus to Malek Ghourghin.

When the ambassadors of the king of Georgia were arrived at court, they addressed themselves to the generals of the army, and besought them to intercede for them, humbly remonstrating that their master was perfectly submissive and obedient; beseeching them to employ their good offices to appease Timur's wrath, and obtain pardon for their master, who would not fail of sending immediately to court all his riches and curiosities, and likewise the annual tribute; and even promising that he should send to the imperial camp, whenever he had orders so to do, the troops which should be required of him.

This discourse touched the Emirs, who introduced the ambassadors into Timur's presence, who gave an account of the subject of their embassy as usual; and the generals having found a favorable opportunity, on their knees related to Timur Malek Ghourghin's propositions, and spoke to him as follows. " It is certain that your highness's intention in all your wars is only the increase and honor of the Mahometan religion : we see that God has blessed your zeal in such a manner, that the Mussulman law has never before arrived at so high a pitch of glory in these countries; for former emperors, and the most powerful Sultans of antiquity, accounted themselves happy when the Georgians gave only a few marks of their respect and obedience, either by sending a yearly present of horses or by furnishing a small number of troops, when their occasions required them in some war : and on these conditions the Georgians lived freely in Persia and the Mussulman kingdoms. But at present thro your highness's great power, they esteem themselves happy, even in being shut up within the farthest parts of their kingdom, as long as they have quarter granted them for their lives. The Mussulmans have entered their capital cities, and enjoy themselves there, as if they were the masters of them. And thus, if your highness will grant them quarter on paying the tribute, and exactly obeying your orders, they will become faithful servants, and asquit themselves of their duty with entire submission and sincerity."

All the Emirs could say, was not able to abate the emperor's zeal for the continuation of the Gazie; which obliged these lords to propose the affair to the doctors of the law and to the muftis, who unanimously declared in the imperial council, that since the Georgians consented to pay tribute, and not to injure the Mussulmans, they were obliged by their law to grant them quarter, without doing them any further harm

either by slaughter or pillaging. According to the conclusion of the doctors, and in condescension to the prayers of the Emirs, Timur granted this favor to the Cheik Ibrahim, one of the intercessors; and nodded to him, in token that in respect to him he condescended to the request of king Ghourghin. He sent back Georgian ambassadors between hope and fear : and afterwards he spent several days in these quarters in the diversion of the chase, till the return of the ambassadors, which happened soon. When they came back, they brought with them a thousand gold medals struck in the name and august titles of Timur, with a thousand horses, and great quantities of curious stuffs, as also vessels of gold, silver and chrystal, and a very fine balass ruby, of a beautiful color, weighing eighteen Medicales, there being few which weigh so much. They presented the whole, and obliged themselves by an oath to pay the tribute. Then Timur prepared to return home; he decamped, and after some days march arrived at Teflis, having ruined all the churches and monasteries in the neighboring parts. When he had gone two days journey beyond the river of Cyrus, he resolved to Carabag to rebuild the town of Bailacan : he set out before with some of his favorite lords, and having passed by Berda, encamped near Bailacan, where he was joined a fortnight after by the army and baggage, who also encamped there.

[II,316-319](#)